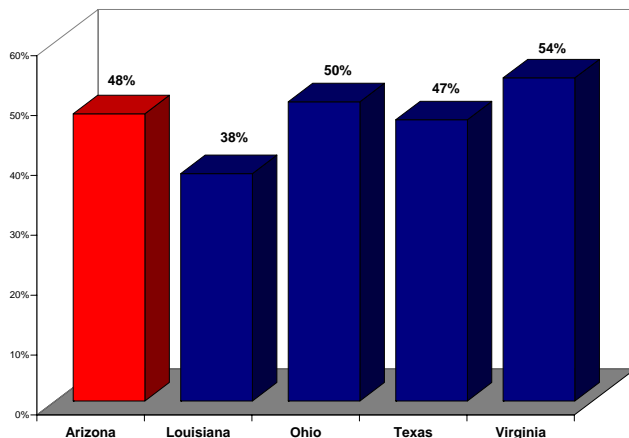


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Figure 1: Three Year Return to Custody Rates by State



CURRENT ADJC RESEARCH

Michelle Anderson and John Vivian, (2007), ADJC Program Evaluation

The Department of Juvenile Corrections evaluates program effectiveness by using a tool known as the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC). To date, three institutional and three community based programs have been evaluated. Four more community based programs are scheduled for evaluation during fiscal year 2008 and two follow-ups are also planned. The CPC is an assessment tool designed to quantify program quality by determining how closely programs meet known principles of effective correctional intervention. Through several recent studies, Dr. Edward Latessa and colleagues at the University of Cincinnati have found high correlations between scores on the CPC and measures of recidivism. The CPC resulted from an assessment of over 40,000 offenders—both adult and juvenile—and over 400 institutional and community-based correctional programs. The CPC is divided into

two areas: Capacity and Content. The Capacity area is designed to measure whether a correctional program has the capability to deliver evidence-based interventions and services for offenders. There are three domains within Capacity: Leadership and Development, Staff, and Quality Assurance. The Content area focuses on the substantive domains of Offender Assessment and Treatment. Each section, as well as the overall program, is scored as either "Highly Effective," "Effective," "Needs Improvement," or "Ineffective."

John Vivian, Gopal Chengalath and Sandy Jones, (2007), Security, Separation and Exclusion Information, January – May 2007

During the first five months of 2007, ADJC experienced an increase security calls, youth assaults, uses of force and uses of mechanical restraints. Meanwhile, a decrease occurred in youth injured in assaults by other youth. No clear trend in rates occurred during this period, as it relates to number of staff assaulted by youth, staff injured in assaults by youth, the number of youth fights and youth fights with injuries. While the median length of stay in Separation was higher (165 minutes) during the first five months of 2007 than it was previously, it has consistently remained below three hours. No clear trend was observed in the number of Separation referrals. The Department uses Exclusion for the "brief removal of a juvenile from regular programming and contact with other juveniles." The average time spent in Exclusion has remained stable at around 45 minutes, and no clear trend has emerged with regard to the number or rate of youth placed on Exclusion.

JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA
 How long do ADJC youth remain in Separation?

JUVENILE JUSTICE LITERATURE REVIEW

J. Butts, S. Mayer, and G. Ruth, (2005). *Focusing Juvenile Justice on Positive Youth Development*. Chapin Hall Center for Children: Issue Brief #105.

Intervening with young offenders before they graduate to serious crime is a basic goal of the juvenile justice system. There are few evidence-based programs for youth adjudicated of non-violent offenses, however. The juvenile justice system needs a theoretically oriented framework to guide the design and implementation of services for all youthful offenders. The juvenile justice system has yet to develop a compelling, theoretically informed framework for service delivery for the typical juvenile delinquent. One resolution to this problem is Positive Youth Development (PYD). PYD suggests that youth can develop and flourish if they are connected to the right mix of social resources. There are three basic principles of PYD. The first is to focus on strengths rather than deficits. The PYD framework emphasizes the building of youth assets thus allowing them to take on new roles as they transition from childhood to adulthood. Second, PYD focuses on positive relationships with adults as strengths and promotes that through positive relationships with pro-social, caring adults. Third, PYD promotes the development and acquisition of youth assets in multiple environments e.g., schools, neighborhoods, community organizations. There is evidence to suggest that the foundational principles of PYD can make a real difference in the lives of youth. By providing the typical delinquent with access to supportive resources and positive relationships they are less likely to experience school failure, substance abuse, and delinquency.

John Whitehead and Steven Lab, (2006), *Juvenile Justice: An Introduction, Fifth Edition*, Chapter 5, Gang Delinquency.

Gangs and gang delinquency are not new phenomena, however, there has been a renewed interest in this subject. According to the National Youth Gang Center there are 24,500 gangs in the United States consisting of almost three-quarters of a million members. Gangs are more common in major metropolitan areas than smaller cities or rural areas. While gangs mainly involve males,

the latest National Youth Gang Survey found that approximately 10% of the gang members were female. Another study found that 20% of the Denver gang members were female “At the head of most gangs is a single core of devoted members. This core may vary in size but is always much smaller than the purported size of the entire gang. The majority of the gang usually reflects a large body of fringe members who rarely take part in decision making and participate in gang activities only at selected times. Gangs that claim memberships of 100 and greater, are probably counting a large number of fringe members.

John Whitehead and Steven Lab, (2006), *Juvenile Justice: An Introduction, Fifth Edition*, Chapter 14, The Future of Juvenile Justice.

Several recommendations have been made to improve the American juvenile justice system. First, many urge the use of a verified risk assessment tool so that juvenile justice officials can identify and treat youths who are most likely to become serious offenders, rather than wasting resources on offenders who are unlikely to re-offend. Some propose that the juvenile court should operate similarly to the adult court, and in order to do that, juveniles would need to be given all of the procedural protections of the criminal court. Another recommendation is to re-introduce the spiritual dimension. This reintroduction would entail efforts of staff, whether counselors, chaplains or parole officers, to help offenders find greater meaning in their lives. “Correctional workers have the simple but potentially profound example of their own lives. They can come to work every day showing a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives. Finally, it is unlikely that the death penalty will be used for juveniles again because in *Roper v. Simmons*, the United States Supreme Court found that: “the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments forbid imposition of the death penalty on offenders who were under the age of 18 when their crimes were committed.”

JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

Between March 2004 and May of 2007, the median time juveniles spent in Separation was consistently less than three hours.

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